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RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
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STATE FOR PM ACTION TEAM

EO 12958 DECL: 04/18/2018
TAGS MOPS, MARR, PINR, PREL, UK
SUBJECT: HMG OUTLINES NEW PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING INTEL
FLIGHT CLEARANCES

REF: A. LONDON 1064
B. TREMONT-PM ACTION TEAM EMAIL APRIL 16

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Maura Connelly, reason 1.4, a/b/c/d.

1. (S/NF) Summary and Action Request. The UK Ministry of Defense summoned PolMilOff April 15 to receive the letter in para 2 on new procedures

2. (S/Rel UK) Begin Text of Letter (note internal numbering):
9 April 2008

Dear Ms. Tremont,
UK INTELLIGENCE GATHERING FLIGHTS FROM UK BASES

1. I am grateful for your help in resolving the current issues regarding UK Government authorisation of U2 sorties flown from RAF Akrotiri, Cy

2. We have a very good working relationship with EUCOM which uses well-established procedures for identifying and discussing the regular intel

3. However, recent U2 flights over Turkey/Northern Iraq, and the Lebanon, have highlighted important legal and political issues which require particular, there are sensitivities with Government of Cyprus regarding the use of Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus.

4. In the light of this, we feel that a formal approach should be made from the US Government to MOD, seeking approval for specified intelligence

5. We will continue to liaise at the military-to-military level with EUCOM over flight details, but also wish to receive political and legal input

6. I have attached a schedule of the missions that EUCOM have informed us that they would like to fly in the period 1 May - 31 August 2008. In

7. I am sure you will understand the sensitivities involved in the use of UK bases for covert or potentially controversial missions, and hence

Yours sincerely,
W M Jessett (Director Counter-Terrorism and UK Operations (Policy))

Annex

A. Flights requested by EUCOM from 1 May - 31 August 2008 (In ref B)
End Text.

3. (S/NF) Comment. Embassy London would welcome other agencies' comments and questions for MOD on these new procedures; our first meeting to discuss
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